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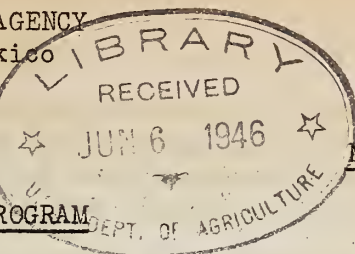
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT AGENCY
State College, New Mexico

March 11, 1944

FARM WAR NEWS

1944 AAA CONSERVATION PROGRAM



NO. 81

(County Chairmen: If the 1944 Sign-up Campaign has begun in your county, publicize it under this heading in this space.)

ATTENTION!

Don't forget that March 31 is the deadline for signing applications for payments for 1943 AAA practices.

FEBRUARY DAIRY FEED PAYMENTS

Dairy feed payments for February sales are now being made by the County AAA Office at the same rate as the January payment, 50¢ per hundredweight on fluid milk sales and 6¢ per pound for butterfat sales.

Milk producers will get higher returns in March and April from these payments, the County AAA Office reports, when rates for the entire State will be 60¢ per hundredweight on fluid milk and 8 cents per pound for butterfat sales. Since these payments are made to offset higher feed costs, tentative plans of the War Food Administration contemplate that a seasonal reduction will be made in the payment rates for the months of May through August.

War needs for dairy products have increased and producers are being urged to increase production per cow. Better pastures can contribute greatly toward increasing the milk supply just as unfavorable pasture conditions contributed to the decline in the Nation's milk production in the last half of 1943.

PROTEIN FEED SITUATION

Distribution of the State allocation of protein feed for March is being made and with the amounts available through regular trade channels, it is sufficient to meet the requirements throughout the State. The demands for protein have lessened during March which is a definite indication that the problem of critical shortage is being solved.

NO POTATO FAMINE THIS YEAR

About a year ago a potato was a mighty scarce item on the food menus in many parts of the country, while this year, stocks are so ample that consumers are being urged to "step up" potato consumption and lower grades are being diverted to other war roles.

ORDER CALCIUM ARSENATE NOW

The War Food Administration is urging growers to place orders immediately for calcium arsenate supplies necessary to safeguard war-needed cotton crops. The overall supply of the insecticide is adequate, but transportation and labor shortages may not permit last-minute deliveries to save infested crops. Calcium arsenate is used to control boll weevil, cotton leaf worm, and bollworm. It is also used in sulphuric mixtures to control the cotton flea hopper.

AN ORCHID AND A WARNING

Rationing of canned vegetables to date has been less stringent than expected due to 1943 victory gardens and home canning, the Office of Price Administration points out and cautions that the only way to keep point values from rising sharply next summer is to produce and can more food.

Price Administrator Chester Bowles urges every person with a suitable plot of ground available to have a patch of vegetables. He says higher point values appear likely later for processed foods since Government requirements are now estimated nearly 70 percent above the 86-million cases in 1943.

WOOL FIGURES

Production of wool in the U. S. in 1943 totaled 447,978,000 pounds--384,378,000 shorn wool and 63,600,000 pulled. The local market price of 1943 shorn wool averaged 41.6 cents per pound, which was up 1.5 cents from the 1942 average price. The number of sheep shorn in 1943 is estimated at 48,573,000 down 1,211,000 head from the record number shorn in 1942.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics says farmers probably would have received lower prices in 1943 for wool if no support programs had been available, as comparable grades of foreign wool were readily available at lower prices. Army orders, which provided the chief outlet for domestic wools, declined sharply in 1943. The WFA has announced that it will offer to purchase the 1944 domestic production of wool at the 1943 price, which is the current ceiling price less specific marketing costs.

U. S. FARMS AID RUSSIAN ADVANCES

Farm folks in this country can take added satisfaction from Russia's inroads on Hitler's armies with the realization that they have added punch to the Russian drive with food, trucks, and seed.

Large quantities of food have gone from this country to maintain the Soviet army rations. They have consisted chiefly of wheat and flour; dried peas and beans; sugar; meat in canned, cured, and dehydrated forms; powdered milk; dried eggs; dehydrated vegetables; and substantial quantities of lard, pork fat, and vegetable oils. Our 580,000 tons of fats and oils were especially important during the winter offensives carried on in sub-zero weather. We put 3½ percent of our total food supply in 1943 into the Russian offensives.

Indirect contributions to the Russian food supply were made in the form of 9,000 tons of seeds. By keeping old trucks in service, farmers contributed toward the 170,000 trucks sent to Russia up to the first of the year. Twice as many trucks were sent in 1943 as in 1942 to help meet the advancing Red Army's transport and supply problems.

LIGHTER HOGS IN '44

Hog weights in 1944 will average considerably lighter than in 1943, the BAE figures, due to less grain per grain-consuming animal unit, and feed-grain prices that are considerably above 1943 prices. Hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection in 1943 averaged 253 pounds, 8 pounds heavier than in 1942 and 24 pounds heavier than the 1935-39 average.

SOUND ECONOMICS

Increased cattle slaughter could continue for the next 4 or 5 years without endangering the cattle population, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics points out and suggests that this reduction in numbers would leave cattle growers in a sound economic position at the end of that period. During 1943, numbers of cattle and calves in this country increased by about 3-million head.

CHANGED RATIONS CHANGE PROBLEMS

In Jefferson's day, 200 years ago, the efforts of 19 farm families were required to produce the food and raw material needed to care for one non-farm family while today four farm families feed and clothe 20 non-farm families.

BUTTER PURCHASE PROGRAM TO RESUME

The Government will resume its butter purchase program through the issuance of a set-aside order on April 1 to obtain supplies needed for U. S. Military and war service requirements. Every pound of the estimated 70-million WFA butter supplies on hand March 1 is committed for use during early 1944 and is part of the 213-million pounds purchased by WFA from February through September of 1943.

BRIEFS

The first water-bath canners to be manufactured since 1941 will be made this spring for use in this season's home canning. WPB is permitting the manufacture of a half million.

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The demand for feed grains during the 1943-44 feeding year as a whole undoubtedly will exceed that of any previous year, although the open weather during much of the winter has tended to relieve the pressure on both feed concentrates and hay supplies, the BAE points out.

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Preliminary indications are that returns from marketings of the 1943 crop of lint and cottonseed will be about \$62 per acre of cotton harvested, the third highest return per acre on record. This level was exceeded only in 1919 with \$69, and in 1942 with \$63, while the 1920-29 average was \$36, and the 1930-39 average was \$27. The index of purchasing power of returns per acre increased from an average of 81 during the decade of the 1920's, and 67 during the decade of the 1930's to 129 in 1941, 150 in 1942, and around 140 this season.

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Supplies of seed disinfectant and fumigants for small grain are expected to be adequate this year provided demand is not concentrated on one or a few particular types.

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In 1943, American farmers bought about a billion and a quarter dollars worth of War Bonds and made a good start toward building up a financial reserve to protect them in the post-war period. With 1944 agricultural income holding at the high level of last year and with most farm finances in good shape, farmers are expected to increase bond purchases this year.

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Farm wives who had difficulty in getting wet mops, wet mop heads or mopsticks may find those items more plentiful soon. OPA recently announced permitted changes in maximum prices in areas where mop shortages threatened sanitary conditions.

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Heavy hog slaughterings have resulted in production of more lard than can be packaged, stored, or shipped for edible uses. As a result, WFA will permit the purchase of 50,000,000 pounds during March for soap-making purposes.

